ATSDR and BCEH Working Together to Protect Public Health

Bureau of Community and Environmental Health

ATSDR

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is a part of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its mission is to serve the public by using the best science, taking responsive public health actions, and providing trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and disease related to toxic substances.

ATSDR is directed by a congressional mandate to perform specific functions concerning the effect on public health of hazardous substances in the environment. These functions include public health assessments of waste sites, health consultations concerning specific hazardous substances, health surveillance and registries, response to emergency releases of hazardous substances, applied research in support of public health assessments, information development and dissemination, and education and training concerning hazardous substances.

With a staff that includes epidemiologists, physicians, toxicologists, engineers, health assessors, public health educators, and support staff, ATSDR assists the Environmental Protection Agency, other federal and state agencies, community members, and other interested parties on the health impacts of contaminated sites and toxic spills by issuing public health advisories and conducting public health assessments and health consultations.

Additionally, the agency summarizes and publishes information about the health effects of hazardous materials and conducts research in toxicology and health effects of environmental pollutants.

BCEH

The Bureau of Community and Environmental Health (BCEH) is a bureau within the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. BCEH's cooperative agreement with ATSDR funds the Environmental Health Education and Assessment Program (EHEAP). The **EHEAP** staff consists of a program manager, toxicologist, and health educator. EHEAP is responsible for assessing human health risks associated with exposure to toxic substances in Idaho and informing and educating Idahoans about the identified health risks and ways to prevent or reduce exposure. To assess the possible health impacts of exposure to toxic substances, EHEAP works with affected communities, federal, tribal, and state agencies, and local health departments.

What does EHEAP do?

The three main activities of EHEAP include conducting public health assessmentrelated activities, encouraging community involvement, and conducting health education activities. EHEAP conducts public health consultations and provides technical assistance for communities located near contaminated sites. EHEAP seeks to involve community members in all stages of the public health consultation process which includes planning, risk analysis, community education and program evaluation. EHEAP also strives to increase knowledge among health care providers practicing near hazardous waste sites by providing continuing medical education courses that feature information on current clinical diagnostic tools, recommended treatments, and ways to prevent or mitigate exposure to toxic chemicals.

For Additional Information:

For additional information about ATSDR, hazardous wastes, and toxic substances in the environment:

Call Toll Free 1-888-422-8737 or visit ATSDR online at: http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov

For additional information about BCEH, hazardous wastes, and toxic substances, contact:

Bureau of Community and Environmental Health (BCEH)

Environmental Health Education and Assessment 450 W. State St. 6th Floor, Boise, Idaho 83720-0036 Toll Free: 1-866-240-3553 (208) 334-5508 BCEH@dhw.idaho.gov